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Capitulation By Mediation

America has a fantastic record of winning wars and losing the peace, of defending the cause of freedom and then surrendering free people to slavery, of fighting totalitarianism and then helping restore it.

Will it be the same in the Dominican Republic?

When the Dominican rebellion erupted earlier this year, President Johnson rushed Marines and other servicemen there for the avowed purpose of preventing a Communist take-over. Americans were evacuated, the communist-backed rebels were contained, and fighting finally was stopped.

The Organization of American States stepped in, quite properly. Soldiers of several nations shared the task of peace-keeping, and representatives of the OAS began negotiations between the Communist-supported rebels and the civilian-military junta.

Although most of the news media in this country has failed to call a spade a spade, the communist-infiltrated rebels have been having things their way. Each time the OAS mediators made a proposal, the rebels would demand changes, concessions would be granted them, and the junta would be forced to agree. Then the rebels would demand and obtain more concessions . . . and start all over again.

Agreement finally was reached on a provisional government. One of the most essential parts of that agreement was that the rebels would collect and surrender the vast supply of arms they passed out indiscriminately at the start of the aborted revolution. They have been making only a token gesture in this direction—and the potential of armed uprising remains a frightful threat.

Although it was not a pre-condition to acceptance of the OAS peace plan, the rebels started demanding the ouster of Gen. Elias Wessin y Wessin as commander of the armed forces training center. Gen. Wessin is considered by Dominican conservatives as that country's chief bulwark against communism.

Gen. Wessin charged that an Army colonel from the United States and an agent of the C.I.A. tried to bribe him to leave the country and accept some lucrative and meaningless position elsewhere. He named names, gave figures and detailed the arrangements. This country HAS NOT refuted the charge.

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Gen. Wessin's home was invaded Thursday night by representatives of the OAS mission, Provisional President Hector Garcia-Godoy's government and armed escorts. This fighter of communism was led away, whisked aboard a U.S. Air Force transport and was shipped out of the country.

Garcia-Godoy announced oh-so-politely that Wessin had "resigned" as military leader and had been appointed "consul general in Miami, Fla."—whatever that means.

The communist-infested rebels cheered long and loud. But, where are their arms? What will they demand . . . and receive . . . next? And how long will it take them to accomplish by "negotiation" what they could not accomplish by revolution?

What's going on behind your back, Mr. President?

No communist takeover in the Dominican Republic?

We asked it long ago and we ask it again: Will rebel leader Col. Francisco Caamano Deno become the Western Hemisphere's second Fidel Castro?

Must dismal history repeat itself again?